

FALL IN INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES: BRITISH PAPER ON COMING DELHI TALKS

INDIA'S sterling balances have fallen by about £100,000,000 from their peak figure of roughly £1,300,000,000 in April last to the present total of about £1,200,000,000.

The London correspondent of the News Chronicle pointing out this fall in the following reasons:

(1) India has been using sterling to pay for her imports from the United States.

(2) During the war, India was a large net contributor to the sterling area of the dollar pool, but recently she has been a net user of dollars.

(3) Britain's exports to India this year have been rather more than her imports from India.

(4) And there has been a certain amount of Indian investment in sterling securities and in British enterprises.

Referring to the preliminary discussions taking place in India on sterling balances, the paper says the British representatives, Sir Wilfrid Eady of the Treasury and Mr. Cobbold, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, will discuss "what is unquestionably the toughest part of Britain's external war-time debt problem."

The way in which the Indian debt is to be settled will, it is pointed out, inevitably condition all other settlements of Britain's sterling debts, the total of which is above £3,500,000,000, and particularly the debt to Egypt which is Britain's biggest creditor next to India.

Approving the "wisdom" with which the British negotiators have defined their mission as "preliminary talks," the paper adds that in the present state of politics in India and with relations between the two Governments uncertain as they are, it would be a serious failure to attempt to negotiate a definite agreement immediately, though, if chances of arriving at such agreement are found to be reasonable, the opportunity will, no doubt, be taken.

The British Mission will endeavour to prepare the way for an agreement on the lines set out in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement in December, 1945.

Any suggestion that part of the debts be cancelled by creditors in recognition of the benefits they would obtain generally from the settlement "would be strongly resisted in India; but," says the writer, "when both countries stand to gain so much from a reasonable solution of the problem, it may be hoped that a reconciliation of differences can be found."—Globe.

COAL SHORTAGE

British Cabinet Likely To Take Emergency Measures

LONDON, Tuesday. PRIME Minister Attlee and his cabinet meeting today for the last time this year may adopt emergency measures to relieve the nation's worst coal shortage since the end of the war. Sources close to No. 10 Downing Street, said that although several other important subjects were on the Cabinet agenda, priority would be given to the acute fuel situation, which threatens to close mills and factories especially in heavily industrial Lancashire.

Estimates of production and distribution to the areas most greatly in need of coal, will be placed before the Ministers, who frankly acknowledged that the shortage not only gravely affected production for home consumption, but also the all-important export trade.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that most of the big cotton mills in the Rochdale District of Lancashire were operating on a hand-to-mouth fuelling schedule and the largest of them may close tonight with one million yards of cloth.

DRASTIC STEPS TO EASE LONDON COAL CRISIS

LONDON, Monday. Drastic steps to ease the coal crisis which resulted in the close down of a number of British industries during the past few days were proposed today. The North-West Regional Board of Industry which held an emergency meeting this morning supported a proposal that all the mills be closed for one week in turn, thus curtailing the present haphazard stop-and-starting which was considered much more harmful than organised stoppage.

The position could only be remedied, the board agreed, by a general lowering of consumption imposed nationally. It recommended a 50 per cent cut in electricity and gas used for street lighting and in shops and stores. "If these recommendations are turned down the situation will be chaotic," the Chairman of the board declared.

Tomorrow the British Cabinet will meet for the last meeting of the year at which special emergency measures may be decided upon to deal with the situation.—Reuters.

DELHI TEACHERS GIVE NOTICE OF STRIKE

Some 5,000 teachers and other employees in the 300 high, middle and primary schools of Delhi Province have given notice of intention to strike work from January 12, according to a statement made by the Secretary, Delhi Provincial Teachers' Association.

Their demands include increase in salary and enforcement of uniform new grades in all schools in the Province.

Nearly a 100,000 students will be affected by the decision.—API.

Mahasabha Resents Demand For Popular Govt. in States

GORAKHPUR, Tuesday. THE 27th session of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha met for fourth and last day.

Two resolutions moved from the Chair were unanimously passed. First, expressed the view that it was not desirable to continue artificial division of U.P. into two provinces of Agra and Oudh any more and decided to amalgamate two provincial Sabhas of Agra and Oudh into one U.P. Provincial Hindusabha.

The second resolution on States moved from the Chair said "Hindu Mahasabha notes with regret and resentment that in the name of responsible Government and with the object of introducing it in States, trouble is being created in Hindu States particularly and practically excluding all Muslim States such as Nizam Hyderabad, Bhopal, Rampur States etc., leading eventually even to subversive activities in Kashmir and Travancore and notes with satisfaction that such activities have been so far put down by their respective Hindu rulers. The Hindu Mahasabha offers them its hearty congratulations and assures them of its support in their fight against pro-Muslim tendency of Congress."

Mr. B. G. Khaparde, C.P., sponsored a resolution directing lines on which a Hindu National organization styled as Hindustan National Guards should be organised for self-defence and decided to start a fund called Malayiya Hindu Sangathan Fund in every province providing Working Committee with 25 per cent of collections made by the Provincial Hindu Sabhas and retaining 75 per cent for their work in their provinces. The resolution also called upon Hindus to adopt economic programme by supporting Hindu traders, artisans, and peasants. The resolution was unanimously passed.

—AND STUDENTS DEMAND RESPONSIBLE GOVT.

A call to rulers of Indian States to grant immediate responsible Government to their subjects was made by the All-India States' Students' Convention, which met in Delhi on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Kashinath Bamzai.

The convention also demanded the unconditional release of Sheikh Abdullah, proper representation for the States' people in the Constituent Assembly and the merger, in a sovereign India, of the States into Provinces formed on a cultural and linguistic basis.—API.

Belgian Emissary's Meeting With Leopold Denied

BRUSSELS, Tuesday. M. Camille Hymans, Premier of Belgium, last night denied reports that a Belgian Government emissary had contacted King Leopold now living in exile in Switzerland.

The emissary, according to these reports, met King Leopold in Basle over the Christmas holidays and gave him the alternative of returning to Belgium at once or abdicating in favour of his sixteen year old son, Prince Baudouin.—Reuters.

INDO-IRAN FRIENDSHIP URGED

CALCUTTA, Monday: The view that friendship between India and Iran can be cemented through good-neighbourly relations and cultural ties was expressed by Dr. S. M. Razvari, a former Education Minister of Iran, in an interview with Globe.

"Relations between India and Iran can best be based on the fundamentals of a solid good-neighbourly policy," Dr. Razvari said. "Added to that should be cultural ties, the exchange of students and continuous exchange of views."—Globe.

Ambedkar Warns Against Pact With Congress

LAHORE, Tuesday.

THAT Dr. Ambedkar will lose the confidence of the Achhuts in India if he comes to any understanding or agreement with the Hindu Congress which does not let him smash the Poona Pact was the view expressed by Sardar Vir Singh, a prominent Achhut leader of Punjab who has just returned from an all-India tour.

Continuing Sardar Vir Singh said that Achhuts all over India are against the Poona Pact due to which they had already lost their legitimate rights to Caste-Hindus. He referred to the Scheduled Castes as the ancient owners of India who had sufficient majority in Central India to create Achhutistan.

Concluding, he appealed to the Depressed Classes to unite if they wish to better their position in India of the future.—OPI.

BAN ON "ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM" CONTEMPLATED

SINGAPORE, Tuesday: The Siamese Government was reported by the Bangkok correspondent of the Singapore 'Free Press' to be contemplating a ban on the film, "Anna and the King of Siam," in which the British actor, Rex Harrison, is co-starred with Irene Dunne.

The reason given was "alleged indignity to the Siamese throne."

This report comes swift on the heels of the Malayan Union ban on a Dorothy Lamour Film, "Beyond the Blue Horizon."

According to the Singapore 'Free Press' report, the Siamese Government Publicity Department announced that the Board of film censors would subject "Anna and the King of Siam" to a rigorous examination.

Officials of the 20th Century Fox said that the film was not due for release in Bangkok for the least another year, due to heavy booking elsewhere in the Far East.—APA.

TRANSFER OF INDIA OFFICE RECORDS: PROTEST SUPPORTED

LONDON, Tuesday: Mr. C. Collin Davies, Reader in Indian History at the University of Oxford, in a letter in the 'Times' yesterday, supports the protest earlier made by Professor Rawlinson against the British Government's proposal to transfer the India Office records to India.

Mr. Davies says: "Since copies of public and secret consultations at White Hall are to be found in the Imperial Record Office in India. The proposed transfer would appear to be a useless gesture. I agree with Professor Rawlinson that the proper place for historical documents relating to British rule in India is the Public Records Office."—Reuters.

MADRAS, Tuesday: Legislation to prevent dedication of women to temples as Devadasi is going to be introduced in the next session of the Madras Legislative Assembly.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi, the Minister for the Hindu Religious Endowment Board told this to a deputation which waited on him yesterday in this connection.—API.

Federal System For Germany: Reported Soviet Support Causes Surprise In London

LONDON, Tuesday. THE latest reports from Berlin that the Soviet Union may support a federal system for Germany when the Council of Foreign Ministers meets in Moscow next March to discuss the German Peace Treaty have caused some surprise in the usually well-informed diplomatic quarters in London, says Reuter's diplomatic correspondent.

The Draft Agenda for the Moscow servers in London believe that Soviet Conference presented early in December in New York by the Soviet Foreign Minister M. Vyacheslav Molotov included "German administration and the problem of German Government". It has consequently been assumed that the Soviet Government would support the creation of a German Central Government when the issue came before the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The most common form for the issue to take, when it comes before the Foreign Ministers, is, it is thought, the discussion of these two questions: One, what powers should be reserved to the Central Government and what powers be given to the provincial administrations? Two, how soon should some form of the Federal Administration be created?

CENTRALISATION

Among factors making for a high degree of centralisation—which might amount to a federal system—is political differences between various occupation zones. If the Socialist Unity Party of the Soviet zone, in which Communist and Social Democratic parties are merged, were likely to dominate the Central Government ob-

Radical Democrats Adopt 22-Point Thesis In Bombay

BOMBAY, Tuesday.

THE third Annual Conference of the All-India Radical Democratic party adopted a 22-point-thesis embodying "the principles of radical Democracy" which concluded its three-day session in Bombay on Sunday.

The thesis which formulates the basic ideology of the party, governing its programme and policy, has its central idea that "man is the measure of everything" or "man is the root of mankind."

Defining freedom as "progressive disappearance of all restrictions on the unfolding of the potentialities of individuals, as human beings, and not as cogs in the wheels of a mechanised social organism", the thesis adds that the pre-condition for the enjoyment of such freedom by an individual is the "progressive satisfaction" of his "material necessities."

"A political system and an economic experiment which subordinate the man of flesh and blood to an imaginary collective ego, be it the nation or a class, cannot possibly be the suitable means for the attainment of the goal of freedom."

"If the fate of the Indian people is allowed to remain in the hands of the older political parties, the perspective is of a continuation of the present State of Anarchy."

By another resolution the Conference declared that "no constitution framed by an Assembly elected only by a 13 per cent minority," could be "binding either legally or morally on the unrepresented majority belonging to both the communities."—API.

Indian Women To Play In World Hockey Tourney

HYDERABAD (Dn), Tuesday.

THE Council of the Indian Hockey Federation at its meeting here resolved to send a women's hockey team to participate in the International Hockey Tournament to be held in Amsterdam in May 1948.

The Council accepted the offer of the Bombay Hockey Association to run an inter-provincial tournament in hockey for men in 1947 and 1948 for purposes of selection of the team.

The Committee agreed to the request of the National Olympic Federation of Afghanistan to play matches at various centres in India. The provinces were permitted to arrange these matches and afford them all facilities.—API.

FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL OPENED AT SHIVPURI

GWALIOR, Tuesday. The importance of the science of forestry as a means of developing the resources of the State was stressed by His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior declaring open the Forest Training School at Shivpuri 72 miles from here.

His Highness expressed the view that every administration should chalk out a clear and bold policy for developing its forests and hoped that the forest training school would do its utmost to achieve for itself a reputation which would not be second to that of any similar institution in the country.—API.

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HAPPY
NEW YEAR

OUR HEARTY THANKS

to our many Patrons, Wholesale
dealers and Suppliers for their
continued Goodwill, patronage
and co-operation.

Once again, we thank all who
have helped us to conclude the
passing year with success and
look forward to their continued
help and co-operation.

WE WISH ALL A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Bata

INDIA'S MOST POPULAR FOOTWEAR

Mon proposes, God disposes... A few weeks ago the first consignment of Sheaffer pens since the early days of the war reached India. A large number of further consignments were reliably expected in the near future. Through circumstances beyond the control of anybody the second consignment has not yet arrived and the whole future delivery programme has been put back by some weeks. As a result a great many people have been disappointed.

But more Sheaffer pens and pencils are due to arrive in the near future and a great many Sheaffer pens and pencils will arrive during the next six months.

To those patient ones who have already waited to obtain the wondrous but writing instruments we ask for just a little more patience. In the meantime, please register your order with your nearest Sheaffer dealer...

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